Gillmartin--240 K-5 (1948-1956) 1961 SRS Bush Negroes SRS, Boni

/160 cont./

769 According to the moral law of the Refugee Blacks, all work must be paid for. The work of the [illegible] and kisimi is no exception to the rule: the dead person must pay for what is done for him; to this end, his brothers appropriate pieces of cloth from his trunk (about 30 if the dead man was rich) and since that would not suffice, the relatives and friends of the dead man come to swell these assets by giving additional pieces of cloth.

If the dead man was very poor and no longer had cloth in good condition, the people of the lineage must give enough so that at least six may be given to the kisimi and about ten to the [illegible]. If there are too few pieces of cloth for each one to be able to receive a whole one, they are cut up into small pieces, but it is absolutely indispensable for each one to be paid, even if symbolically.

764 Unfolding of the burial rites. These rites are complex, and the ceremonies in which they unfold are always very confused. Even if one is acquainted with the general idea and understands the language rather well, they are very difficult to follow. For [128] clearness in this account, we shall first give a résumé, which will be followed by observations collected in particular cases.

• 763 The day of the death is taken up by weeping and lamentations and the sending of messengers to the neighboring villages.